

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 8, 12 – 14, 16 and 17 are currently pending in the application. Applicants amend claims 8, 12 and 13, and cancel claim 16 without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is introduced.

ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that current claims 1 – 7 are allowed.

Applicants further thank the Examiner for indicating that current claims 13 and 16 are objected to, but that each would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of associated base and intervening claims and, in the case of claim 16, if the rejection under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as to base claim 8 is overcome. Applicants cancel claim 16 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 12 is allowable for the reasons cited below, and as claim 13 depends from claim 12, that it is also allowable for at least this reason. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 8 is rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants' regard as their invention. In particular, the Examiner finds that the recited first and second spring members are insufficiently defined with respect to the open ends of the first and second side faces of the metal case to understand how deformation of the open ends enables deformation of the first and second spring members. Applicants amend claim 8 to incorporate the limitations of canceled claim 16 reciting that "[the] metal case further comprises first and second pillar members provided vertically to oppose each other between the top and bottom faces" and that "[the] first

and second spring members are attached to inner faces of the first and second side faces of said metal case so as to contact [the] first and second pillar members, respectively”. Applicants further amend claim 8 to require that “the first spring member is compressible between the inner face of the first side face of [the] metal case and [the] first pillar member, and the second spring member is compressible between the inner face of the second side face of said metal case and [the] second pillar member”. Support for these amendments may be found, for example, at page 15, line 35 through page 17, line 15 of Applicants’ specification. Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 8 makes clear the mechanism by which the first and second spring members are deformed in response to deformation of the first and second side faces, and therefore request that this rejection be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

Claims 8 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 56,480,391 to Monson et al. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,410,448 to Barker et al. Claim 14, which depends from claim 12, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barker in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,006,959 to Freige et al. Applicants amend claims 8 and 12 to further clarify the nature of their invention, amend dependent claim 13 to conform to the amendments made to independent claim 12 and respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants’ independent claim 8 discloses a plug-in unit comprising a printed circuit board covered by a metal case having parallel first and second side faces perpendicular to top and bottom faces. First and second spring members 101, 102 elastically deform in response to inward deformation of open ends 81a, 82a of the first and second side faces so as to press outward on the open ends of the side faces with a resilient force (see, e.g., Applicants FIGs. 9A, 9B).

Independent claim 8 is amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 16.

Specifically, the amendments provide that the metal case also includes first and second pillar members 48, 49 provided vertically to oppose each other between the top and bottom faces. The first and second spring members are attached to inner faces of the first and second side faces of the metal case and make contact with the first and second pillar members. As a result, the first spring member is compressible between the inner face of the first side face of the metal case and the first pillar member, and the second spring member is compressible between the inner face of the second side face of said metal case and the second pillar member.

Monson discloses a modular cage for an electronic component, suitable for receiving one or more trays 95 each having springs 135 for engaging floor and roof members 40, 50 of the modular cage (see, e.g., FIG. 3 of Monson). Unlike Applicants' claimed device, springs 135 however do not deform in response to inward deformation of the open ends of the first and second side faces of a metal case of tray 95. Rather, springs 135 directly contact floor and roof members 40, 50 external to tray 95, and deform as a result of an interference fit rather than in response to a deformation of tray 95 and/or floor and roof members 40, 50. Accordingly, and consistent with the Examiner's determination that claim 16 is allowable, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 8 is not anticipated by Monson.

Applicants' independent claim 12 discloses a sub-rack unit comprising a back wiring board, first and second guide rail parts, a plurality of plug-in units inserted along the first and second guide rail parts to be plugged into connectors of the back wiring board, a member for forming an air reservoir room under the second guide rail parts, and a plurality of motor-fan units 140 each having a motor fan 144 and a lid member 146 (see, e.g., Applicants' FIG. 19). Each motor-fan unit is detachably plugged into the sub-rack unit under the member forming an air reservoir room such that the lid members are pressed against a bottom face of the member

forming an air reservoir room. As a result, each of the motor-fan units and the member forming an air reservoir room are sealably integrated.

Independent claim 12 is amended to include limitations of allowable claim 13. Specifically, amended claim 12 further recites that each of the lid members is provided on the motor fan, and includes a projection part formed on an end portion thereof, the end portion being in a direction in which each of said motor-fan units is plugged into said sub-rack unit, the projection part having a top face tilt in said direction (see, e.g., page 27, line 7 through page 28, line 16 of Applicants' specification).

Barker discloses an adaptive cooling system including an air mover 30 including a fan with motor 100 and upper and lower impellers 102, 104 (see, e.g., FIG. 7 of Barker). Unlike Applicants' invention as claimed in claim 12, the air mover 30 of Barker is not configured to be slidably plugged into an air reservoir room, and does not featuring a projection part 146b having a tilted top face to guide the fan into position such that a lid member 146 is sealably pressed against a lower surface of the air reservoir room to minimize leakage of air. Accordingly, and consistent with the Examiner's determination that claim 13 is allowable, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 12 is not made obvious by Barker.

For the reasons cited above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 8 and 12 are allowable over the cited art. As claims 13 and 17 respectively depend from allowable claims 12 and 8, Applicants further submit that claims 13 and 17 are allowable for at least this reason.

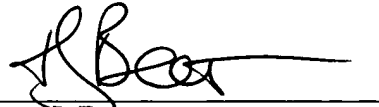
CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1 – 8, 12 – 14 and 17, consisting of independent claims 1, 8 and 12, and the claims dependent therefrom, are in

condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Bean', written over a horizontal line.

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